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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/599,565	10/02/2006	Dirkjan Bernhard Van Dam	22173-70313	1903
24728 7590 12/30/2010 MORRIS MANNING MARTIN LLP 3343 PEACHTREE ROAD, NE 1600 ATLANTA FINANCIAL CENTER ATLANTA, GA 30326				
EXAMINER NGUYEN, LAM S				
ART UNIT 2853		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 12/30/2010		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/599,565

Applicant(s)

VAN DAM ET AL.

Examiner

LAM S. NGUYEN

Art Unit

2853

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-3 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7, 9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 October 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-940)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/1/08, 12/16/08, 12/9/10
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elected claims 4-10 for further examination. As a result, claims 1-3 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeda et al. (US 6151051).

Regarding to claim 4:

Ikeda et al. discloses printing machine, comprising:

at least one print head for releasing ink droplets (FIG. 1, elements 101-104);

a table for supporting a substrate having a receiving surface (FIG. 1, element 112) for receiving ink droplets from the at least one print head;

moving means for moving the at least one print head and the table with respect to each other (FIG. 14); and

covering means for covering at least a portion of the table, which are provided with at least one hole, for letting through the at least one print head (FIG. 1, element 107A).

Regarding to claims 5-6: wherein the covering means are arranged such as to encompass the at least one print head, wherein the covering means are attached to the at least one print head (FIG. 1).

Regarding to claim 7: comprising at least two print heads (FIG. 1: Four ink jet heads 101-104), wherein the number of holes in the covering means (FIG. 1: The number of hole is 1) for letting through the print heads is smaller than the number of print heads, and wherein the covering means and the print heads are movably arranged with respect to each other (FIG. 1: The ink jet head is movable from the plate 107A for exchanging purpose).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda et al. (US 6151051) in view of Wotton et al. (US 6390618).

Ikeda et al. discloses the claimed invention as discussed above except supplying means for supplying vapour to a space which is present between the covering means and the table, and extracting means for extracting vapour from a space which is present between the covering means and the table.

Wotton et al. discloses an inkjet printing apparatus comprising an ink jet head for forming images on a printing medium, means for supplying vapour to a space between the inkjet head and the printing medium, and extracting means for extracting vapour from the space (FIG. 4, elements 301 and 413).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Ikeda's printing apparatus to include means for supplying vapour and extracting vapour to the space as disclosed by Wotton et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to improve drying time of ejected ink drops as taught by Wotton et al. (Abstract).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of the claim is the inclusions therein, in combination as currently claimed, of the limitation that wherein the covering means comprise a rollable sheet, and wherein rotatably arranged rollers are provided for reeling two opposite sides of the sheet is neither disclosed nor taught by the cited prior art of record, alone or in combination.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAM S. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-2151. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, STEPHEN D. MEIER can be reached on (571)272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system,

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contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/LAM S NGUYEN/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2853